



Data Points

RESULTS FROM THE 1997 CALIFORNIA WOMEN'S HEALTH SURVEY

Based on national surveys, infertility has been reported by increasing numbers of women in the United States since the 1980's. The increase has been linked to the aging of the baby-boom cohort, which delayed childbearing until the later less fertile reproductive years, as well as untreated chlamydia and gonorrhea infections. The increase has been seen across all age, marital status, education, income, and racial/ethnic groups.

The 1997 California Women's Health Survey asked women, **"In the past, have you ever tried for more than 12 months to get pregnant and weren't successful?"** and **"Have you ever been told by a doctor or other health care professional that you were infertile?"**

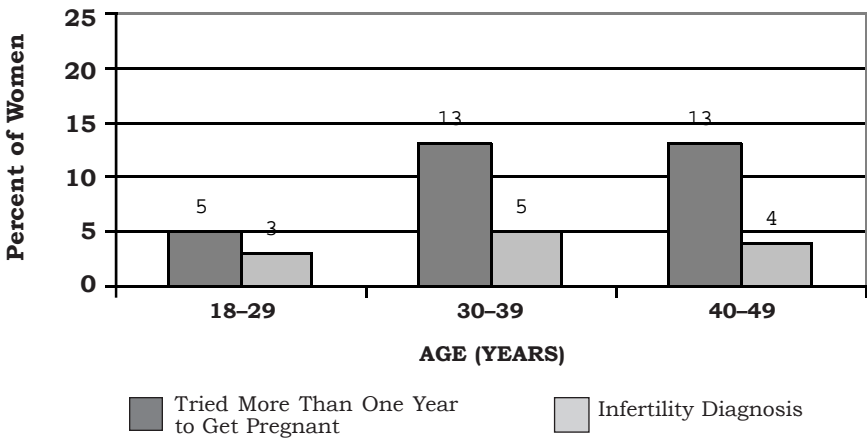
- 10% reported having tried unsuccessfully for more than 12 months to get pregnant (a marker of infertility).

- 4% of women reported having had a diagnosis of infertility.
- 20% of the women who had problems getting pregnant reported they had been given an infertility diagnosis.
- 5% of women reported they were currently trying to get pregnant. Half of the women who were trying to get pregnant had been trying for more than a year.
- Infertile women were more likely to report a higher educational level; these women may have been more likely to have sought out health care if they had difficulties in becoming pregnant.
- Women age 30-39 and 40-49 reported infertility and problems getting pregnant much more frequently than younger women.

INFERTILITY

Sexually Transmitted Disease Control Branch

Difficulties in Becoming Pregnant and Infertility Diagnoses, By Age Group; California, 1997



Public Health Message:

For the first time, we have evidence that one in ten California women has tried unsuccessfully to become pregnant. Infertility is a problem with significant adverse economic and psychosocial impact, affecting far more California women than has been previously recognized.

Issue 1, Number 6, Fall 1999
Second Printing